

Commission on Children and Youth
Retreat/Meeting Summary
October 14, 2015

Members Present: Dana Bell, Tom Grazio, Stuart Grossman, Carson Henry, Lindsay Hoffman, Nancy Kaplan, Tami Niedomanski, Roberta Rinker, Bobbi Sherman, and Beka Urgessa

Guest: Cecily Adams and Ethan Chen

Staff: Dr. Barbara Andrews and Marva Younger

Dana Bell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM immediately following dinner

Introduction: Members, guests and staff

ACTION ITEMS:

Reading and Approval of the September Meeting Minutes

There was not a quorum to approve the September minutes. Also, the May minutes will be amended filling in the blanks (Nancy Dworkin Award "Food by Taco Bar and Music by de Colores Mexican Folk Dance Company").

Annual Report

Drafting of 2 to 3 priorities for the Annual Report was one of the important action items. Also, Dana will edit letter and asked to add sponsors and treehouse photos.

Retreat

Need to develop priorities for Thursday morning Council HHS Committee breakfast with HHS Commissions and Boards/Priorities are also from the Annual Report and for 2015-2016 work and Committees.

Dr. Andrews stated that the priorities must show "cause" and "impact". Therefore, a lively brainstorming session ensued and the commissioners voted on the following priorities to be included in the Annual Report:

- Youth Homeliness – 6 votes
- My Brother's Keeper – 6 votes
- Peer to Peer Youth Mentoring – 4 votes
- SSL hours – 2 votes
- Access to counselor in high school/Social Media/Cyber Bullying – 1 vote
- Undocumented Youth – 0 votes
- Access and Awareness of Youth Healthcare (Medical/Social) -- 0 votes
- Physical Fitness Challenge – 0 votes
- Equity in Assessment in MCPS – 0 votes

The first two priorities received the highest vote.

Priority One:

The Commission is concerned about the rise in the numbers of homeless youth in the County. The Commission intends to look at the causes of this problem and the impact it has on youth and family members

Committee members: Tami, Roberta and Nancy.

Priority Two:

Review existing local initiatives and reports on My Brother's Keeper and opportunity youth. Analyze, meet with stakeholders, and prioritize recommendations to the County.

Committee members:

Membership

Interviews completed and list forwarded to the Executive's Office. Hopefully, new commissioners will be approved by the November meeting.

Staff Position

Dr. Andrews announced that a job freeze is currently in place but a part-time position for Program manager for Commissions has been released for hire and gone to the transfer line.

Commission Events: Planning

Youth Roundtable

The Youth Roundtable will be held on December 9, 2015, 6:30pm to 9:00pm. Bobbi agreed to be leader. Roberta explained that youth will lead the discussion and adults will listen and observe. Each adult is requested to donate a \$10 gift card for the participating youth. Dinner will also be served. Staff will make contact and invite youth groups, school board and other organizations to the youth roundtable. Some of the brainstorming priorities suggested for the Annual Report will be topics for the youth roundtable.

Martin Luther King Day of Service

The Martin Luther King is a day of service will be in conjunction with the Volunteer Center.

Nancy Dworkin Awards

The Dworkin Awards will be held on a Monday evening in late May or early June. Roberta offered NCCF as a location.

Tour de Cookie

The Tour de Cookie will be held on Saturday, May 7. Tom stated that several people have volunteered to make cookies.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.